

North-Central *Build Wisconsin* Regional Workshop Small Group Record

Small Group Single Yellow

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Top 10 responses to the question: “What can the State do to foster economic growth in your region?”

Priority response #1 (votes: 6) Create more industry-specific zones based on identified clusters.

Priority response #2 (votes: 4) Personal tax credits for youth retention to apply to tech and college graduates.

Priority response #3 (votes: 4) Increase funding for incubators, infrastructure and buildings.

Priority response #4 (votes: 3) Promotional campaign on a regional level by industry.

Priority response #5 (votes: 2) Outline to help local governments consolidate services.

Priority response #6 (votes: 2) Preserve the uniqueness of the Northwoods and capacity for tourism.

Priority response #7 (votes: 2) Get a handle on escalating health care costs and general liability for small businesses.

Priority response #8 (votes: 2) Lower taxes.

Priority response #9 (votes: 2) Develop a privately run “super-bank” that all banks must participate in to do high risk loans.

“Actions Necessary to Achieve our Ideas” Exercise

“If we want to accomplish this [priority issue #1], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

Priority Issue #1 Create more industry-specific zones based on identified clusters.

Responses to the question: “If we want to accomplish this [priority issue], what does “the State” (as defined earlier) have to do now?”

- *Provide access to cash without restrictions or strings attached.
- *Get legislators to limit regulations.
- *Create programs to help business to do what it does best, where it does it.
- *Watch what goes on at the national level for business in our region.
- *Conduct state listening session on how regulations are restricting business, by industry.
- *Treat agriculture like an economic development industry.

Priority Issue #2 Personal tax credits for youth retention to apply to tech and college graduates.

- *Allow students personal tax credit for up to five years if they return to home town or rural area.
- *Provide forgiveness of student loans for graduates who return to home area.

Priority Issue #3 Increase funding for incubators, infrastructure and buildings.

- *Set up favorable rules and favorable tax climate for small business development.
- *Develop local mentoring associations to provide hands on experience and education for small business.
- *Coordinate services from tech colleges, SBDC, SCORE. Consolidate and specialize.
- *Re-establish small business agents.
- *Entrepreneurial development by Forward Wisconsin and tech schools on a regional basis, to develop incubator facilities in existing surplus buildings.